

## Patent Amendment

In the Specification:

Please amend as follows:

The paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 6:

*AI*

This application discloses subject matter related to the subject matter disclosed in the following co-assigned patent applications: (1) "Clock Distribution Scheme in a Signaling Server," filed 03/31/2000, Ser. No. 09/541,002 now U.S. Patent No. 6,643,671 issued 11/01/2003 (Attorney Docket Number: 1285-0008), in the name(s) of: Val Teodorescu; (2) "Card Design Having Tape and Disk Drives," filed 03/31/2000, Ser. No. 09/539,759 now U.S. Patent No. 6,636,917 issued 10/21/2003 (Attorney Docket Number: 1285-0004), in the name(s) of: Ignacio Linares and Serge Fourcand; (3) "Bus Control Module for a Multi-Stage Clock Distribution Scheme in a Signaling Server," filed 03/31/2000, Ser. No. 09/540,591 (Attorney Docket Number: 1285-0005), in the name(s) of: Serge Fourcand, Curt McKinley, and Val Teodorescu; and (4) "Bus Control Module with System Slot Functionality in a Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect Bus System," filed 03/31/2000, Ser. No 09/540,594 (Attorney Docket Number: 1285-0006), in the name(s) of: Serge Fourcand, Curt McKinley, and Val Teodorescu.

*AB*

The paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 1:

In yet another aspect, the present invention is directed to an alarm collection method using a multi-stage clock distribution system in a signaling server organized in a plurality of racks, wherein each rack includes a plurality of shelves. The multi-stage clock distribution system includes an STG, at least one CDM, and a plurality of BCMs. Upon determining the size of the signaling server system by ascertaining the number of racks, the CDMs are assigned levels in a nested hierarchy. When only one rack is provided, a single-level CDM hierarchy is present and, accordingly, an R-Level is assigned to the CDMs connected to the STG. If the signaling server system comprises between 2 and 8 racks, inclusive, the nested hierarchy is provided with two levels of CDMs. The CDMs connected to the STG are assigned L-Level and the CDMs coupled to the L-Level CDMs are assigned R-Level. If more than 8 racks are included in the system, a three-level nested hierarchy of the CDMs is provided: C-Level CDMs coupled to the STG, L-Level CDMs coupled to the C-Level CDMs, and R-Level CDMs coupled to the L-Level CDMs. Ultimately, the BCMs are coupled to the R-Level CDMs in this multi-stage distribution system. Without having to use hardwired strapping options, unique IDs are assigned to the

## Patent Amendment

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shelves wherein the ID includes a redundancy Plane code, a Group code, a Rack code for a rack within a particular Group of racks, and a Shelf code for a shelf within a particular rack. The STG generates a framed serial control signal containing unique shelf ID information and CDM level information in order to control the alarm multiplexing process. Each BCM generates a status signal encoded with alarm data which is successively multiplexed towards the STG through the nested hierarchy of CDMs into a serial bitstream having multiple frames. The CDMs assign predetermined time slots to the received alarm data based on control and ID information provided in the framed serial control signal.

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